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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/649,120	08/27/2003	David Grable	BAE-10902/15	5472

25006 7590 08/11/2004

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EXAMINER


D ADAMO, STEPHEN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3636

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/649,120	GRABLE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
Stephen D'Adamo	3636		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 August 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/5/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - Page 9, lines 1-3, both “an elongated rivet arm” and “recliner bushing” is designated with the reference “108”
 - Page 10, line 21, “the plate 122” should be corrected to “the plate 120”
 - Throughout the disclosure, structural element 158, disclosed as a “male detent” is not a proper reference for one skilled in the art to recognize. The terminology should be consistent with that used by one skilled in the art. Therefore, it is suggested to change the “male detent” 158 to either a cam or a plate.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character “108” has been used to designate both an elongated rivet arm and a recliner bushing. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Where applicant acts as his or her own lexicographer to specifically define a term of a claim contrary to its ordinary meaning, the written description must clearly redefine the claim term and set forth the uncommon definition so as to put one reasonably skilled in the art on notice that the applicant intended to so redefine that claim term. *Process Control Corp. v. HydReclaim Corp.*, 190 F.3d 1350, 1357, 52 USPQ2d 1029, 1033 (Fed. Cir. 1999). The term “male detent” throughout the claims is used to reference element “158”, while the accepted terminology for the element is either a “plate” or a “cam.” The term is indefinite because the specification does not clearly redefine the term.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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Claims 1, 2 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pejathaya et al. (6,698,837).

Pejathaya discloses a “seat assembly with an integrated recliner and floor-latch mechanism” comprising a combination recliner and floor-latch assembly 10 for use with a seat assembly. The recliner mechanism includes a release mechanism or pawl 76a. “The recliner cam 78a is operably interconnected to an actuation lever 26, whereby movement of the actuation lever 26 concurrently move the recliner cam 78a to selectively engage or disengage the pal 76a” (col.4, lines 18-22). A plate 30a is secured to the seat back with auxiliary apertures 40a at a first location and has a pivot aperture 32a defining a second location. The plate also includes an arcuate edge 34a, wherein “a portion of the arcuate edge 34a includes...an interlock notch 38a” (col.3, lines 43-45). The interlock notch is a recessed detent. Furthermore, a floor release lever 160 is proximate to the plate 30a and is pivotally associated with the release mechanism. “The floor-latch mechanism 18a is in operable communication with the actuation lever 26 through transfer lever 160, which is pivotally supported between the inner and outer plates 22, 24 and includes...a transfer cable attachment point 168 [for transfer cable 182]” (col.5, lines 39-44). The male detent or cam 78a is inter-disposed between the floor release mechanism 160 and the plate 30a. Pejathaya continues to disclose the operation, “Operation to the first position imparts actuation of the recliner cams 78a, 78b to disengage the pawls 76a, 76b from the seat-back supports 20a, 20b. Disengagement of the pawls from the seat-back supports enables the seat-back supports to recline against the biasing force of the coil spring or forward folding of the seat back supports. Further operation of the actuation

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levers to a second position enables operation of the floor-latch mechanisms 18a, 18b”

(col.11, lines 25-34). Note, the outer and inner plates 22, 24 sandwich there between the seat back, the release mechanism, the plate, the floor release lever and the male detent.

The male detent or cam 78a is positioned on the outer or outward facing surface of the inner or inside plate 22.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 3-12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yu (6,290,297), Seibold (6,209,955), Brewer (6,139,104), Bolsworth et al. (5,393,116), Bell (4,705,319), Tanaka (4,634,182), Suzuki (4,484,779), Fisher, III et al. (4,372,610), Kluting (4,223,946) and Hiram et al. (JP 59034942) all show various features of the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen D'Adamo whose telephone number is 703-305-8173. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:00-3:30, 2nd Friday 6:00-2:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pete Cuomo can be reached on 703-308-0827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SD

sd

August 6, 2004

LANNA MAI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

